

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed on May 4, 2006, has been received and its contents carefully considered. Reconsideration of the final rejections presented therein is requested for at least the following reasons.

In this Amendment, Applicant has editorially amended claims 1 and 10. Claims 1 and 10 are the independent claims, and claims 1-16 remain pending in the application. For at least the following reasons, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-2 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Ramey et al.* (US 6,756,971 B1). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended claim 1 recites a "notebook computer with a hidden touch pad", comprising "a main portion including a housing portion, wherein the housing portion has an internal surface having an receiving portion" and "a touch pad disposed onto the receiving portion; *wherein the receiving portion of the internal surface prevents the touch pad from being exposed to an atmosphere*" (*emphasis added*).

Ramey et al. discloses a touch pad guard comprising a touch pad 12 and a touch pad guard member 60 having a flat side region 62, wherein " the touch pad 12 is located on the top surface 34 of keyboard housing 32" (column 3, line 38-40). That is, the touch pad 12 is not disposed on the flat side region 62, which covers the touch pad 12.

AMENDMENT

10/661,587

Ramey et al. therefore fails to teach or suggest "a touch pad disposed onto the receiving portion; wherein the receiving portion of the internal surface prevents the touch pad from being exposed to an atmosphere". For at least this reason, claim 1 patentably defines over the cited art.

As amended, claim 1 overcomes the rejection, and dependant claims 2 and 4 are therefore also allowable.

Claims 7-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious solely over *Ramey et al.* (US 6,756,971 B1). In addition, claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over the combination of *Ramey et al.* (US 6,756,971 B1) with *Garner* (US 6,501,462 B1). These rejections are each respectfully traversed.

As amended claim 1 has overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), and as *Garner* does not overcome the deficiencies of *Ramey et al.*, claims 3 and 7-9, being dependant from claim 1, are also allowable.

Claims 5, 6 and 10-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over the combination of *Ramey et al.* (US 6,756,971 B1) with *Keely, Jr. et al.* (US 2002/0063694 A1). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 5 and 6 depend from claim 1, which is allowable, and therefore claims 5 and 6 are also allowable.

Amended claim 10 recites "A method for manufacturing a notebook computer with a hidden touch pad, comprising: forming a housing having an internal surface having a receiving portion; and adhering a touch pad onto the

receiving portion; *wherein the receiving portion of the internal surface prevents the touch pad from being exposed to an atmosphere outside of the housing*".

Both *Ramey et al.* and *Keely, Jr. et al.* fail to teach or suggest that "the *receiving portion* of the internal surface prevents the touch pad from being exposed to an atmosphere outside of the housing". For at least this reason, claim 10 patently defines over the cited art.

Claims 11-16 depend from claim 10, and are allowable at least because claim 10 is allowable.

It is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Such action and the passing of this case to issue are requested.

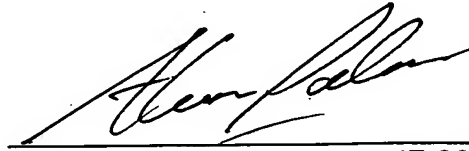
Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such an interview.

Should the remittance be accidentally missing or insufficient, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 18-0002, and advise us accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

July 21, 2006

Date



Alun L. Palmer – Reg. No. 47,838
RABIN & BERDO, PC – Cust. No. 23995
Facsimile: 202-408-0924; 202-408-5297
Telephone: 202-371-8976

ALP/ng